

## ACTION PLAN

Submitted by agency?	No
Timeline assigned?	No
Responsibility assigned?	No

## Department of Public Safety

To help combat crime rates, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) has joint operations with police departments across the state to more effectively utilize manpower and resources. In May 2019, the governor assigned 50 state police officers to assist the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) in responding to violent crime; later in the month, the unit was reduced to 25 officers. Seven state police officers were already assigned to work with APD.

While crime rates in New Mexico rose every year between 2014 and 2017, preliminary data from Albuquerque, which makes up the largest portion of reported crimes in the state, suggests crime may be falling. Between 2017 and 2018, APD reports property crime decreased 17 percent and violent crime decreased 1 percent. APD has increased from 821 officers in 2016 to 927 as of March 30, 2019, and reports a 35 percent increase in traffic stops between 2017 and 2018, which a 2018 LFC program evaluation identified as an effective method of preventing crime.

### Law Enforcement

The department surpassed targets for strategic traffic enforcement and DWI saturation patrols in the first half of FY19; this quarter, it reached its target for commercial vehicle inspections. The department has already exceeded FY18 actuals for strategic traffic enforcement and is on track to do so for DWI saturation patrols and commercial vehicle inspections. While commendable, these results indicate some performance targets do not accurately reflect the department's capacity and goals and may need to be revised.

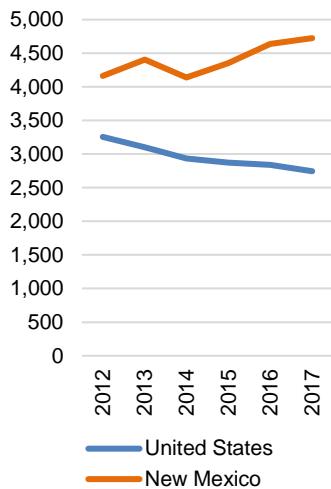
Year-to-date DWI arrests are down 18 percent from this time last year; however, it is difficult to ascertain if fewer DWI arrests indicates reduced enforcement or fewer people driving while intoxicated. While year-to-date DWI saturation patrols are up 7.7 percent from third quarter FY18, the number of DWI checkpoints is down 34 percent, with only 93 checkpoints completed compared to 141 at the end of the third quarter of FY18. DPS notes that checkpoints dropped significantly in the second quarter due to delayed grant funding. If such delays negatively impact public safety by decreasing enforcement and arrests, it may be necessary to locate a more reliable funding source.

To help address persistent vacancies, the executive and the Legislature collaborated to increase manpower through a targeted 8.5 percent pay increase in FY19. In the first half of FY19, vacancy rates for state police officers averaged 11 percent, a significant drop from an average of 14 percent in FY18, perhaps as a result of these efforts.

**Budget:** \$124,387.4 FTE: 1,084.2

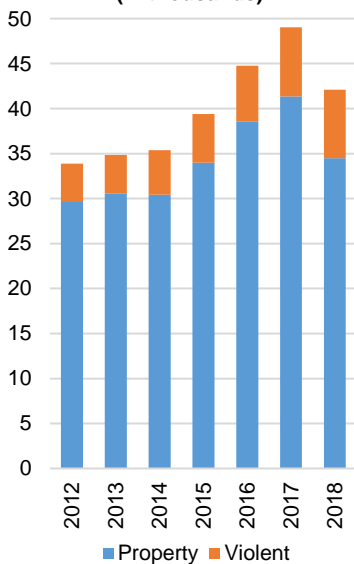
Measure	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	FY19 Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Rating
Data-driven traffic-related enforcement projects held	New	1,926	1,700	816	1,030	955	G
Driving-while-intoxicated saturation patrols conducted	New	3,184	975	656	999	939	G
Commercial motor vehicle safety inspections conducted	96,802	88,078	70,000	26,645	22,694	23,150	G
Driving-while-intoxicated arrests	2,931	2,574	2,250	431	544	605	Y
<b>Program Rating</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>G</b>					<b>G</b>

**National vs. New Mexico Crime Rates**  
(per 100 thousand residents)

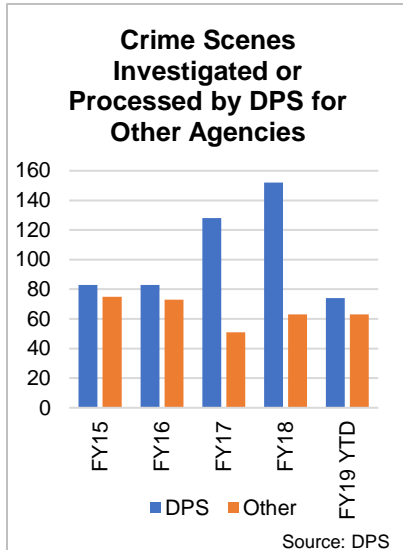


Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation

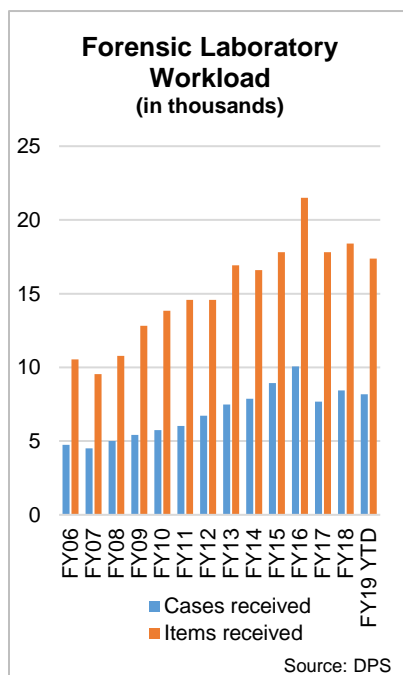
**Albuquerque Crime Counts**  
(in thousands)



Source: FBI, DPS



In 2016, the Legislature authorized \$7.5 million for the new Santa Fe crime lab and evidence center; this year, an additional \$33 million was appropriated for this purpose. DPS determined these facilities should be separated, and plans for the evidence center facility to be added to its main campus while the forensic lab will be located on a separate site in Santa Fe. Both projects are in progress; preliminary estimates place substantial completion of the evidence center in September 2021 and the crime lab in April 2022.



## Statewide Law Enforcement Support

DPS surpassed targets for forensic latent fingerprint and biology/DNA cases but missed targets for firearm/toolmark and chemistry cases as the forensic laboratory bureau struggles with a 25 percent vacancy rate among scientists and technicians. DPS had greater than 100 percent case completion rates in latent print cases because scientists completed backlogged cases in addition to cases received this quarter. High turnover rates increase the number of nonproductive hours while the training of forensic scientists can take one to two years before they become fully productive.

New Mexico law enforcement agencies reported 1,133 rape kits eligible for DPS laboratory testing in 2015. The backlog was completed in June 2018. Since hiring a Sexual Assault Kit Inventory coordinator in May 2017, an additional 256 kits have been identified across the state. DPS has received and completed testing of 1,391 kits; two cases are pending. The department continues to ensure that all backlogged kits have been submitted to the department for testing before officially marking the backlog cleared. Of the kits, 443 were eligible for entry into federal criminal databases and 175 of those kits resulted in a “hit,” meaning the evidence in an unsolved case matched the DNA profile from a convicted offender or an arrestee.

## Department of Public Safety FY19 Q3 Forensic Cases Received and Completed

Case Type	Cases received	Case completed	Completion rate	Backlog
Firearm and Toolmark	200	154	77%	46
Latent Fingerprint	140	179	128%	-
Chemistry	1,423	1,078	76%	345
Biology and DNA	698	451	65%	247

Source: Department of Public Safety

Budget: \$21,432.4 FTE: 164

Measure	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	FY19 Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Rating
Forensic firearm/toolmark cases completed	NEW	96%	90%	97%	46%	77%	Y
Forensic latent fingerprint cases completed	NEW	105%	90%	89%	148%	128%	G
Forensic chemistry cases completed	NEW	91%	90%	59%	67%	76%	Y
Forensic biology and DNA cases completed	NEW	116%	65%	130%	90%	64.6%	G
<b>Program Rating</b>	N/A	G					G